

**For Immediate Release**  
**August 16, 2011**

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**Driver in 2009 Fatal DWI Crash Pleads Guilty Again to Drunk Driving**

*Tia Gerstner was on Probation and Now Faces Up to Seven Years in Prison*

Tia Gerstner, who killed a classmate in a 2009 drunken driving crash, pleaded guilty Monday to violating probation by driving drunk again.

Gerstner, 20, of Rochester, will be sentenced to 2 1/3 to 7 years under the plea.

In December 2009, Gerstner accepted a plea that sentenced her to six months in jail and five years of probation after she pleaded guilty to Vehicular Manslaughter in the Second Degree for the death of 17-year-old Joseph Mueller. A fellow Aquinas Student, Mueller died in March 2009, when Gerstner crashed her car on Ling Road in Greece. She admitted drinking two 22-ounce beers and smoking marijuana before she lost control of her car and hit a tree. Mueller was a passenger in Gerstner's car.

On May 21, 2011, Gerstner was driving a sport utility vehicle that struck an unoccupied car on Lake Avenue. She admitted in court that she was drinking liquor before her arrest that night. Drinking and driving is a violation of Gerstner's probation.

Assistant District Attorney Perry Duckles says, "Gerstner admitted to violating her probation and is facing 2 1/3 to 7 years in state prison. She was given an opportunity to improve her life and that opportunity was squandered."

Gerstner is now jailed awaiting sentencing. She is scheduled to return to court September 19.

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